

## **New! Juror Panel Planned for Annual Federal Court Practice Seminar**

The judges of the District of Minnesota are working with the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association on a juror panel for the annual [Federal Court Practice seminar \(click here\)](#). The seminar will be held this year on Tuesday, May 21 at the Depot Minneapolis, with the panel scheduled from 2:00 until 3:15 p.m. A similar panel was part of the Iowa state bar seminar this year and was enthusiastically received by lawyers, judges and participating jurors.

Members of the public who have recently served on a federal jury in the District of Minnesota are being contacted for possible participation in the seminar. Judge Joan Ericksen of this District, who is also the President-elect of the Minnesota chapter of the FBA, has agreed to moderate the discussion. Participation by former jurors is purely voluntary—it is not part of their required jury service. The seminar committee envisions a very informal discussion with jurors, providing a rare opportunity to learn what jury service is really like. Topics will include juror perception of voir dire, scheduling, and whether specific attorney techniques are—or are not—persuasive. Jurors will not be discussing substantive details of particular cases.

The Clerk of Court has identified jurors who have recently participated in a case that proceeded to verdict. Judge Ericksen is making an initial telephone contact to identify former jurors who are interested in participating in the seminar. Follow-up with the jurors will be made by attorney Bill Hittler of the Nilan, Johnson and Lewis law firm in Minneapolis, a member of the FBA seminar committee.

Jurors will be offered the opportunity to attend the Mason Memorial Luncheon ahead of the 2:00 panel discussion.